

Amendments to the Specification:

Please make the following amendments to the specification (material to be inserted in replacement paragraphs or sections is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Significant effort and attention has been directed over the years at automating material handling and manufacturing. Ultimately, material processing equipment must be cost effective to manufacture and use. Therefore, innovation is needed to produce manufacturing equipment that is affordable, in view of its intended use, without sacrificing or ~~comprising~~ **compromising** precision, accuracy, and overall functional performance. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph

-- Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view through the assembly of Figure 1 showing the linkage between internal carriage 50 and carriage coupling device 40. A close-up view of the linkage is shown in Figure 3. Carriage 50 has a cylindrical portion that has internal threads complimenting threads on screw shaft 42. The cylindrical portion of carriage 50

is contained entirely inside positioning guide rail 34. Carriage 50 also has a flange portion 51 that extends through slot 52, which ~~and~~ runs substantially the entire length of positioning guide rail 34. Flange portion 51 includes three T-slots. One T-slot has anti-friction surface material 54 so that carriage 50 can move with a low coefficient of friction relative to T-structure 55 on positioning guide rail 34. Two other T-slots are provided. T-slot 56a receives one or more bolts for securing fence structure coupling device 40. T-slot 56b receives one or more bolts for securing interlock plate member 57a. Interlock device 57b is mounted on plate member 57a, and operates to prevent operation of the machine while the carriage is moving. The T-slot configuration shown in Figure 3 provides a rigid, sturdy connection between carriage 50 and carriage coupling device 40, thus enabling carriage 50 to move smoothly on a single rail or guide structure 55 without contacting any other internal surface inside positioning guide rail 34. Therefore, the positioning system can operate with minimal friction making the device more efficient to operate and less expensive to produce compared to prior positioning systems. Alternative slot arrangements may be used. Other types of fastening devices, for example, bolts with nuts, soldered or welded connections, etc. may also be used. --